CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method of using a computer system to graphically

2   display search results, comprising:

3   sending a search request to a search engine, wherein the

4   search request includes a navigation location processed into a

5   format required by the search engine;

6   receiving search results from the search engine, wherein

7   the search results are proximal links related to the

8   navigation location, wherein the proximal links are related to

9   the search request;

10   displaying the search results in a display area, wherein

11   the search results are represented as graphical shapes drawn

12   in the display area and at any given time represent data for a

13   time quantum, and wherein the graphical shapes reference data

14   and respond to user selections allowing a user to access

15   referenced data.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the proximal links

2   may be at least one navigation location.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the proximal links

2   may be a subweb.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the received proximal

2   links are provided to an output target.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the graphical shapes

2   are grouped by the inter-relatedness of the data referenced by

3   the graphical shapes.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the inter-relatedness

2   of the data is represented by graphical shapes, wherein

3   subsequent data containing references within the scope of

4   primary data are represented by subsequent graphical shapes

5   that are enveloped by primary graphical shapes.

1   7.   The method of claim 5, wherein the inter-relatedness

2   of the data is represented by graphical shapes, wherein

3   subsequent data containing no references within the scope of

4   primary data are represented by subsequent graphical shapes

5   that do not intersect and are not enveloped by primary

6   graphical shapes.

1   8.   A system of using a computer to graphically display

2   search results, comprising:

3   means to send a search request to a search engine,

4   wherein the search request includes a navigation location

5   processed into a format required by the search engine;

6   means to receive search results from the search engine,

7   wherein the search results are proximal links related to the

8   navigation location, wherein the proximal links are related to

9   the search request;

10   means to display the search results in a display area,

11   wherein the search results are represented as graphical shapes

12   drawn in the display area and at any given time represent data

13   for a time quantum, and wherein the graphical shapes reference

14   data and respond to user selections allowing a user to access

15   referenced data.

1   9.   The system of claim 8, wherein the proximal links

2   may be at least one navigation location.

1   10.   The system of claim 8, wherein the proximal links

2   may be a subweb.

1   11.   The system of claim 8, wherein the received proximal

2   links are provided to an output target.

1   12.   The system of claim 8, wherein the graphical shapes

2 are grouped by the inter-relatedness of the data referenced by

3 the graphical shapes.

1   13.   The system of claim 12, wherein the inter-

2 relatedness of the data is represented by graphical shapes,

3 wherein subsequent data containing references within the scope

4 of primary data are represented by subsequent graphical shapes

5 that are enveloped by primary graphical shapes.

1   14.   The system of claim 8, wherein the inter-relatedness

2 of the data is represented by graphical shapes, wherein

3 subsequent data containing no references within the scope of

4 primary data are represented by subsequent graphical shapes

5 that do not intersect and are not enveloped by primary

6 graphical shapes.

1   15.   A method of using a computer system for searching

2   for relevant data, comprising:

3   receiving a search request from a user, wherein the

4   search request includes a search subject and navigation

5   location;

6   processing the search request into a format required by a

7   search engine;

8   sending the processed search request to the search

9   engine, wherein the processed search request is processed for

10   the search engine;

11   receiving search results, which are proximal links,

12   wherein the proximal links are related to the navigation

13   location from the search request;

14   determining which proximal links are relevant, wherein

15   relevant links are those that are related to the search

16   subject of the search request; and

17   transmitting the search results to the user.

1   16.   The method of claim 15, further comprising

2   determining if too many proximal links have been found.

1   17.   The method of claim 15, further comprising

2   processing relevant links for output if not too many proximal

3   links have been found.

1   18.   The method of claim 15, further comprising providing

2   the relevant links to an output target.

1   19.   The method of claim 18, wherein the output target is

2   for is a temporal user interface.

1   20.   The method of claim 15, wherein the proximal links

2   may be at least one navigation location.

1   21.   The method of claim 15, wherein the proximal links

2   may be a subweb.

1   22.   A system of using a computer to search for

2 information, comprising:

3   means to obtain a query, wherein the query includes a

4 search subject and navigation location;

5   means to process the navigation location into a format

6 required by a search engine;

7   means to provide the search engine with a location

8 request, wherein the location request is the processed

9 navigation location;

10   means to obtain navigation location related proximal

11 links, wherein the location proximal links are related to the

12 location request;

13   means to process the location proximal links for

14 relevance; and

15   means to identify subject links related to the search

16 subject from the processed location proximal links.

1   23.   The system of claim 22, further comprising means to

2 determine if an expanse breach has occurred.

1   24.   The system of claim 22, further comprising means to

2 process the identified subject links for output if no expanse

3 breach occurred.

1   25.   The system of claim 22, further comprising means to

2   provide the processed proximal links to an output target.

1   26.   The system of claim 25, wherein the output target is

2   for is a temporal user interface.

1   27.   The system of claim 22, wherein the proximal links

2   may be at least one navigation location.

1   28.   The system of claim 22, wherein the proximal links

2   may be a subweb.

1   29.   A method of using a computer to display help

2   information, comprising:

3   monitoring function execution;

4   storing a current system state;

5   determining what functions have been executed by

6   examining latest stored system states if a request for help

7   has been made;

8   displaying help information based on the functions that

9   have been last executed.

1   30.   The method of claim 29, further comprising

2   determining if the last executed function has been made by

3   mistake.

1   31.   The method of claim 30, wherein the determination

2   that the last executed function has been made by mistake is

3   made by a user engaging an undo function.

1   32.   The method of claim 29, further comprising

2   instantiating a latest stored system state the last executed

3   function has been made by mistake.

1   33.   An interaction computer interface invocable by an

2   application program responsive to user selections to invoke

3   application module commands, comprising:

4   an information pool;

5   information clouds, wherein the information clouds are

6   data structures referencing information;

7   information crystals, wherein the information crystals

8   reference information in information clouds and form at a

9   passing of a temporal quantum;

10   information raindrops, wherein the information raindrops

11   are information crystals that form in an information pool.

1   34.   The interface of claim 33, wherein a liquid graphic

2   transformation effect is applied to the information pool.

1   35.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the information

2   pool is displayed in a window.

1   36.   The interface of claim 33, wherein a highlighted

2   portion of the information pool is displayed as a subview.

1   37.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the information

2   pool includes a pool bottom.

1   38.   The interface of claim 37, wherein the pool bottom

2   displays multimedia.

1   39.   The interface of claim 37, wherein the pool bottom

2   displays advertising.

1   40.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the information

2   pool displays temporal information.

1   41.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the information

2   clouds reference information from a data analyzer.

1   42.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the information

2   crystals reference navigation locations.

1   43.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the information

2   crystals reference subjects.

1   44.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the information

2   crystals reference multimedia.

1   45.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the information

2   crystals reference a number representing how many alternate

3   navigation locations refer to a particular navigation

4   location.

1   46.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the information

2   raindrops visually appear as analogue to real world raindrops

3   falling into a pool.

1   47.   The interface of claim 33, wherein groups of

2   raindrops represent groups of data in a subweb.

1   48.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the appearance of

2   a raindrop may vary based on specified criteria.

1   49.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the appearance of

2   a raindrop may vary in color.

1   50.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the appearance of

2   a raindrop may vary in size.

1   51.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the appearance of

2   a raindrop may vary in thickness.

1   52.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the appearance of

2   a raindrop may vary in transparency.

1   53.   The interface of claim 33, wherein the appearance of

2   a raindrop may be complimented with complementary dynamic

3   visual cues.

1   54.   The interface of claim 48, wherein a specified

2   criterion is the type of a document.

1   55.   The interface of claim 48, wherein a specified

2   criterion is a size of a document.

1   56.   The interface of claim 48, wherein a specified

2   criterion is a number representing how many alternate

3.   navigation locations refer to a particular navigation

4   location.

1   57.   The interface of claim 48, wherein a specified

2   criterion is a number of multimedia files at a navigation

3   location.

1   58.   The interface of claim 48, wherein a specified

2   criterion is staleness of a link.

1   59.   The interface of claim 48, wherein a specified

2   criterion is a media content type.

1   60.   The interface of claim 48, wherein a specified

2   criterion is a subject relevancy ranking.

1   61. The interface of claim 48, further comprising a

2   dynamic mapping and search selection facility.

1   62. The interface of claim 61, wherein the search

2   selection facility allows modification of the specified

3   criteria.

1   63. The interface of claim 33, further comprising a time

2   line facility.

1   64. The interface of claim 33, further comprising an

2   interpretive help tool.

1   65. The interface of claim 33, further comprising a

2   focus box.

1   66. The interface of claim 33, further comprising a

2   skimming pebble facility.

1   67.   A method of using a computer to display data,

2 comprising:

3   displaying an information pool;

4   receiving information from a data source;

5   generating information clouds, wherein the information

6 clouds are data structures referencing information obtained

7 from the data source;

8   generating information crystals, wherein the information

9 crystals reference information in information clouds and form

10 at a passing of a temporal quantum; and

11   displaying information raindrops, wherein the information

12 raindrops are information crystals that form in an information

13 pool.

1   68.   The method of claim 67, wherein the data source is a

2 data analyzer.

1   69.   The method of claim 67, further comprising applying

2 a liquid graphic transformation effect to the information

3 pool.

1   70.   The method of claim 67, wherein the information pool

2 is displayed in a window.

1   71.   The method of claim 67, wherein a highlighted

2   portion of the information pool is displayed as a subview.

1   72.   The method of claim 67, wherein the information pool

2   includes a pool bottom.

1   73.   The method of claim 72, further comprising

2   displaying multimedia in the pool bottom.

1   74.   The method of claim 72, further comprising

2   displaying advertising in the pool bottom.

1   75.   The method of claim 67, further comprising

2   displaying temporal information in the information pool.

1   76.   The method of claim 67, wherein the information

2   clouds obtain information from a data analyzer.

1   77.   The method of claim 67, wherein the information

2   crystals reference navigation locations.

1   78.   The method of claim 67, wherein the information

2   crystals reference subjects.

1   79.   The method of claim 67, wherein the information

2   crystals reference multimedia.

1   80.   The method of claim 67, wherein the information

2   crystals reference a number representing how many alternate

3   navigation locations refer to a particular navigation

4   location.

1   81.   The method of claim 67, wherein the information

2   raindrops visually appear as analogue to real world raindrops

3   falling into a pool.

1   82.   The method of claim 67, wherein groups of raindrops

2   represent groups of data in a subweb.

1   83.   The method of claim 67, wherein the appearance of a

2   raindrop may vary based on specified criteria.

1   84.   The method of claim 67, wherein the appearance of a

2   raindrop may vary in color.

1   85.   The method of claim 67, wherein the appearance of a

2   raindrop may vary in size.

1   86.   The method of claim 67, wherein the appearance of a

2   raindrop may vary in thickness.

1   87.   The method of claim 67, wherein the appearance of a

2   raindrop may be complimented with complementary dynamic visual

3   cues.

1   88.   The method of claim 67, wherein the appearance of a

2   raindrop may vary in translucency.

1   89.   The method of claim 83, wherein a specified

2   criterion is the type of a document.

1   90.   The method of claim 83, wherein a specified

2   criterion is a size of a document.

1   91.   The method of claim 83, wherein a specified

2   criterion is a number representing how many alternate

3   navigation locations refer to a particular navigation

4   location.

1   92.   The method of claim 83, wherein a specified

2   criterion is a number of multimedia files at a navigation

3   location.

1   93.   The method of claim 83, wherein a specified

2   criterion is staleness of a link.

1   94.   The method of claim 83, wherein a specified

2   criterion is a media content type.

1   95.   The method of claim 83, wherein a specified

2   criterion is a subject relevancy ranking.

1   96.   The method of claim 83, further comprising a dynamic

2   mapping and search selection facility.

1   97. The method of claim 96, wherein the search selection

2   facility allows modification of the specified criteria.

1   98. In memory, an interaction interface invocable by an

2   application program responsive to user selections to invoke

3   application module commands, comprising:

4   a graphical shape to represent temporal information;

5   a display area to display the graphical shapes,

6   wherein the graphical shapes drawn in the display

7   area at any given time represent data for a time quantum,

8   wherein the graphical shapes reference data and

9   respond to user selections allowing a user to access

10   referenced data;

11   a temporal selection facility to specify any given time

12   quantum in a chronological data set responsive to user

13   selections,

14   wherein the temporal selection facility is disposed

15   in communication with the display area such that user

16   selections specifying a time quantum instruct the display area

17   to display temporal information for a specified time quantum

18   from a chronological data set.

1   99. The interface of claim 98, wherein a liquid graphic

2   transformation effect is applied to the display area.

1   100. The interface of claim 98, wherein the display area

2   is displayed in a window.

1   101. The interface of claim 98, wherein a highlighted

2   portion of the display area is displayed as a subview.

1   102. The interface of claim 98, wherein the display area

2   includes a lower display layer.

1   103. The interface of claim 102, wherein the lower

2   display layer displays multimedia.

1   104. The interface of claim 102, wherein the lower

2   display layer displays advertising.

1   105. The interface of claim 98, wherein the display area

2   displays temporal information.

1   106. The interface of claim 98, wherein the chronological

2   data set is obtained from a data analyzer.

1   107. The interface of claim 98, wherein the data the

2   shapes reference navigation locations.

1   108. The interface of claim 98, wherein the data the

2   shapes reference multimedia.

1   109. The interface of claim 98, wherein the shapes

2   reference data from a chronological data set.

1   110. The interface of claim 98, wherein the shapes

2   visually appear as analogue to real world raindrops falling

3   into a pool.

1   111. The interface of claim 98, wherein groups of shapes

2   represent groups of data in a subweb.

1   112. The interface of claim 98, wherein the appearance of

2   a shape may vary based on specified criteria.

1   113. The interface of claim 98, wherein the appearance of

2   a shape may vary in color.

1   114. The interface of claim 98, wherein the appearance of

2   a shape may vary in size.

1   115. The interface of claim 98, wherein the appearance of

2   a shape may vary in thickness.

1   116. The interface of claim 98, wherein the appearance of

2   a shape may vary in transparency.

1   117. The interface of claim 98, wherein the appearance of

2   a shape may be complimented with complementary dynamic visual

3   cues.

1   118. The interface of claim 112, wherein a specified

2 criterion is the type of a document.

1   119. The interface of claim 112, wherein a specified

2 criterion is a size of a document.

1   120. The interface of claim 112, wherein a specified

2 criterion is a number representing how many alternate

3 navigation locations refer to a particular navigation

4 location.

1   121. The interface of claim 112, wherein a specified

2 criterion is a number of multimedia files at a navigation

3 location.

1   122. The interface of claim 112, wherein a specified

2 criterion is staleness of a link.

1   123. The interface of claim 112, wherein a specified

2 criterion is a media content type.

1   124. The interface of claim 112, wherein a specified

2 criterion is a subject relevancy ranking.

1   125. The interface of claim 98, further comprising a

2 dynamic mapping and search selection facility.

1   126. The interface of claim 125, wherein the search

2   selection facility allows modification of the specified

3   criteria.

1   127. The interface of claim 98, further comprising an

2   interpretive help tool.

1   128. The interface of claim 98, further comprising a

2   focus box.

1   129. The interface of claim 98, further comprising a

2   skimming pebble facility.

1   130. The interface of claim 98, wherein the graphical

2   shapes are grouped by the inter-relatedness of the data

3   referenced by the graphical shapes.

1   131. The interface of claim 130, wherein the inter-

2   relatedness of the data is represented by graphical shapes,

3   wherein subsequent data containing references within the scope

4   of primary data are represented by subsequent graphical shapes

5   that are enveloped by primary graphical shapes.

1   132. The interface of claim 130, wherein the inter-

2   relatedness of the data is represented by graphical shapes,

3   wherein subsequent data containing no references within the

4   scope of primary data are represented by subsequent graphical

5   shapes that do not intersect and are not enveloped by primary

6   graphical shapes.

1   133. The interface of claim 130, wherein the inter-

2   relatedness of the data is represented by graphical shapes,

3   wherein subsequent data containing some references within the

4   scope of primary data and some references outside the scope of

5   primary data are represented by subsequent graphical shapes

6   that intersect with primary graphical shapes.